

# 2012 Impaired Waters List Updates

## Impaired Waters List

Every two years, DNR publishes a list of waters considered impaired, as required by Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d). Impaired waters do not meet standards and may not support fishing, swimming, recreating or public health and welfare.

## Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM)

The CWA requires states to document the methodology used to assess its waters, including how the state makes decisions to add or delete waters from the Impaired Waters List. Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM) provides guidance to DNR staff conducting assessments of water quality.

## Comment Period

A third public comment period is being held from May 30, 2013 to June 30, 2013.

A third public comment period is being held from May 30, 2013 to June 30, 2013 for changes made to the previous draft impaired waters list (April 2012 draft) and revisions to Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WisCALM) to be used for the 2014 assessment cycle.

The main changes to the list are the result of changes to DNR's phosphorus assessment methods. In response to EPA comments on the April 2012 draft list, the 2012 WisCALM, used to develop the previous draft list, was rescinded, and those waters designated in Category 5P were reassessed using a revised assessment methodology (2014 WisCALM, unpublished draft). The revised methodology maintains the use of Category 5P, which includes those waters that exceed the applicable total phosphorus criteria and for which biological data are either unavailable or do not indicate impairment. Using the revised assessment method, 48 of the original 99 Category 5P waters remain in Category 5P.

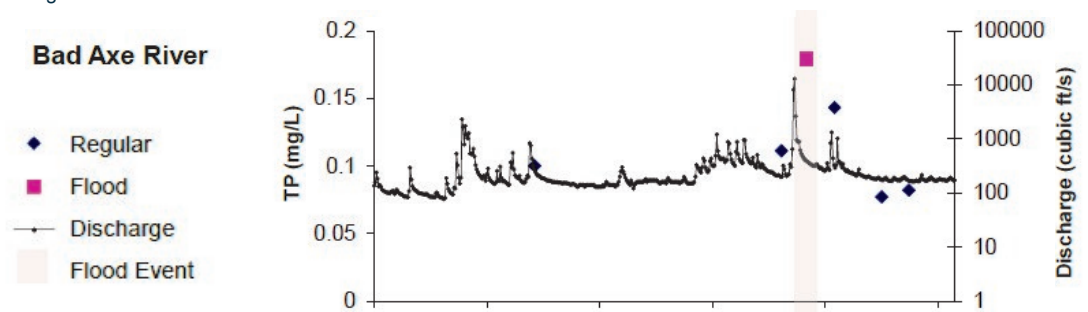
In addition, 24 waters exceeding phosphorus criteria that were considered "flood-affected" and excluded from the previous draft list were also reassessed for this listing update.

Other listing updates from the April 2012 draft were unchanged and carried forward in the current draft list.

## Reassessment of Flood-affected Waters

- After reassessing the waters considered "flood-affected," half of these waters are now identified as impaired.
- Assessments of six "flood-affected" waters (Figure 1) are being deferred to a future assessment cycle, when additional data is available that are representative of more typical conditions.
- Additional phosphorus data will be collected from these six waters in 2013.

Figure 1. Phosphorus data collected from one flood-affected water, the Bad Axe River, showing high concentrations during flood conditions.



For more information regarding Wisconsin's Impaired Waters visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/>

To receive future updates on the Impaired Waters List, please subscribe to our mailing list using the GovDelivery service on our website: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new>



Revised: May 27, 2013

